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White House News Conference No. 370

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Q In view of the increasin
George Bush heading the CIA because of
the Republican Party in the past, is th

MR. NESSEN: I don't know tha
opposition. I have heard of one Senato
Senator, who is a candidate for Preside

Q Have you heard of Mansfi

MR. NESSEN: All right, that
Senators who are candidates for Preside

Q Mike Mansfield.

MR. NESSEN: I didn't know Mike was opposed to
Bush.

Q Is the President considering withdrawing
Mr. Bush's name?

MR. NESSEN: Absolutely not. He stands by the
nomination for the reasons that he has stated; that is, he is a
man of intelligence and integrity. He has a record both as
Ambassador to the United Nations and representative in
China.

There have been a number of demands lately that
the Director of the CIA be someone who is not a career
intelligence officer, so that would certainly be in George
Bush's favor. He is an outsider.

The President feels that his having gone before
the voters and be elected twice to Congress gives him a
responsiveness and sensitivity to the wishes of the public
in the running of the CIA.

He has a high standard of morals and ethics which
should serve him well in a period when the CIA is being
reformed and revised. For all those reasons, plus the
working relationship and the personal relationship, and
the trust and the confidence the President has in him, he
is the President's choice for that job.

Q Ron, the requirement is that this be a non-
partisan position and he is conveniently ignoring one of
his credentials; that is, former head of the Republican
Party. Do you see that?